

The background of the image is a collage of various fabrics. The top left features a rich red velvet fabric with deep, plush folds. Below and to the right of the velvet are several pieces of white tulle, some gathered into ruffles and others in loose, flowing layers. In the bottom right corner, there is a piece of black lace with a delicate, intricate pattern. The overall composition is a close-up, textured view of these materials.

Heat Manipulated Fabric Experiment

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Tulle

Fabric: Tulle (100% Nylon) from JoAnn's

Swatch Start Size: 54x14in.

Heat gun: Wagner Furno 5050

Other Materials: Baking pan and wooden spoon (not used for cooking)

Procedure:

The fabric was placed on a baking sheet and I used a wooden spoon to hold it in place as I worked (this was done outside because heating the fabric creates fumes). I first tried using the lowest heat setting and found that it didn't have an effect on the fabric, so I raised the temperature to the middle heat setting and set the fan to high. I held the heat about 4 inches from the fabric and ran it in line patterns going in different directions on the fabric, but majority were horizontal (always keep the gun moving don't hold it in one place, move it back and forth along the line you want to create). Folds were melted into the fabric by using the wooden spoon to hold them down and then going over them with the heat gun (4 inches above the fabric and moved along the fold for a few seconds until I could see the fabric melt together about 2 seconds). I also created holes by placing the metal tip of the heat gun directly on the fabric for a second. Bigger holes are made by holding the tip in place for longer and small holes are made by touching the tip and pulling it away immediately. Keep the section you are working on the backing sheet, and when you finish a portion use the wooden spoon to pull the next section of fabric onto the pan.

Finished Swatch Size: 36x7in

Notes:

I was expecting the fabric to bubble like all the fabric in the example video, but instead it formed veins along the fabric. I found that when trying to make holes the heat would flatten the area around them and I had to go back and add veins in some spots (I think this is because I had the fan set to high and the gun was touching the fabric which caused the air to push the fabric flat). If I were going to do this on a larger amount of fabric, I would invest in a larger baking sheet (I used a 9x13in pan from Dollar Tree). I was surprised that I needed to turn the heat and fan up to get an effect on the fabric, I thought it would take a very small amount of heat to get the fabric to react.





Polly Satin

Fabric: Poly Satin (100% Polyester) was given fabric so source is unknown

Swatch Start Size: 60x15in.

Heat gun: Wagner Furno 5050

Other Materials: Baking pan and wooden spoon (not used for cooking)

Procedure:

I tried out four different techniques on this fabric, and all of which were done with the right side of the fabric facing down (this was done outside because heating the fabric creates strong fumes). The first thing I tried was the general bubble texture on the fabric. This was done by setting the heat gun to the high fan setting and the heat to level four. I put the fabric on a baking tray and used a wooden spoon to hold it down and move the fabric around. The gun was held about four inches above the fabric and moved in circular motions around. Be careful not to hold the heat gun in any one area for too long or it will melt the fabric. The raised areas on the back of my fabric turned black but I found that turning the heat down made caused the fabric to no longer bubble, so I was just careful to not create holes in the fabric and except that the back would be black. I used the spoon to move the fabric around so that the area I was working on was always on the baking tray. The next technique I tried was lace. For this I turned the heat up to level five on my heat gun. For this technique I moved the heat gun in smaller circles then the bubbles and went over the same areas for longer (but never stop moving the heat gun). I let the fabric melt and create holes to give a lace like appearance (this is done by keeping the heat gun in the same area). For the lace flowers I kept the heat gun at a level five. This technique was done by holding the heat gun over a small area of fabric about four inches away (moving the heat gun in small circles) and allowing the fabric to melt in the center. After making a flower I pulled the heat gun back away from the fabric so that the surrounding area would not be affected. Then move the heat gun to a different location and repeat the process. The last thing I tried was regular flowers (not lace). To do this I turned the heat down to level three on my heat gun. The fabric was put on the baking tray and held in place with the wooden spoon. To start I would pick a spot to make a flower hold the heat gun about four inches from fabric and move it in small circles. The fabric started to turn black, but I was careful to not let it get to the point of melting. Once I was happy with the flower, I pulled the heat gun always from the fabric so the surrounding area would not be affected. Next, I would pick a different spot and follow the same steps.

Finished Swatch Size: 44x11.5in.

Notes:

I was expecting it to have the same pattern as the example in the video did and that is how it turned out. I was surprised at how hot the heat gun had to be set in order to get an effect on the fabric. I found that the heat had to high enough to blacken the fabric to get any effect on the fabric. In other words, it seemed to be all or nothing. If I were to do this again, I would like to get some different ends for my heat gun to see in I could get smaller more focused holes. I wasn't expecting to have a lot of control, but I was surprised by how little I actually had, and I would be interested if different shaped ends might help improve this.

Complete Swatch



Bubble Pattern





Flower Lace





Chiffon

Fabric: Chiffon (100% Polyester) from JoAnns

Swatch Start Size: 12.5x43in.

Vegetable Steamer

Other Materials: Washers, Screws, Small bolts, Glass pebbles, Cotton String

Procedure:

The first step is to wrap various materials into the fabric. I decided to put each material into a different section so I could clearly see what shape each object made. In order to wrap the object you push it up from the wrong side and then tightly wrap the string around the base of the object (do not tie). Then add another and follow the same steps until your fabric is filled with objects (the screws are wrapped from the bottom up and then back down again). I went from washers to screws to bolts to pebbles. The string should be very tightly wrapped around the objects so that you do not need to tie at any point during the process. Once all the objects are in the fabric it is placed into the steamer and steamed for twenty minutes. After steaming was complete it was left to cool down in the steamer for about ten minutes (this is to avoid burning yourself). After the ten minutes I placed the fabric into a plastic bag for transport and immediately took it out when I got home. It was left to sit out overnight until it was completely dry (leave the objects in while it dries). Once the fabric was dried the objects were unwrapped and removed.

Finished Swatch Size: 6x18in.

Notes:

It was a lot more difficult to wrap the fabric than I was expecting. I thought I was wrapping everything tight enough, but I found that the screws especially had a tendency to start and unravel so I had to go back and rewrap them. If I were to do this again, I would wrap some of the screws with the sharp end sticking up so that there isn't the screw head shape. I wasn't expecting the shapes to come out as well defined as they did and didn't think the screw ends would end up being a defined shape from the threads of the screw.



Washers





